our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Summer 1992

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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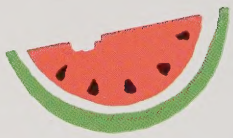

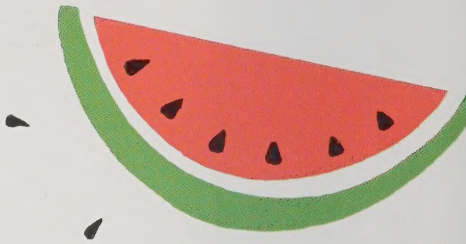

Summer 1992
Volume 89, No. 2

COVER:

Prize Photo — When Arthur Morton of Lakeville posed his kitten, "Sprout," on the fencepost, his horse, "Ginger Red," trotted over to investigate, resulting in a prize-winning shot that took third place in the color category of the League's animal photo contest (see pp. 10-11).

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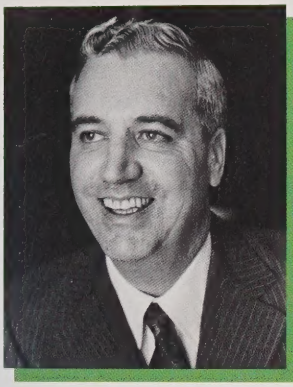


A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Legislative Dilemma

One of the legislative bills we introduced into the present session of the Massachusetts Legislature is House Bill No. 5599. We have spoken of this bill before and urged your strong support in the past.

This is the bill that, simply put, would correct the inequity in the present cruelty laws for the more vicious and violent crimes against animals. Currently, it is a felony to willfully and in a malicious manner kill, maim or disfigure the animal of another person, but it is only a misdemeanor with a correspondingly lesser penalty to commit the same abusive crime against one's own animals.

The abuse and suffering of an animal can be the same in either case, and the ownership of the animal has no bearing on the severity of the crime.

We were prompted to introduce this legislation because of the rash of violent crimes we have seen in the last several years. This type of cruelty is on the increase and we have reported many of them in these pages and still others have been covered in the public press. I have reference here to cases such as the Brian Watson wild animals a few years ago and more recently the dog Jenny beaten and abused and placed in a trash barrel. These are just two of such cases, but there have been many more. A host of people have urged that we seek an increase in the penalty of the cruelty laws in order to deal with these most violent and vicious offenses against animals. It is, I believe, of considerable significance that some of the strongest urging to seek this improvement in the law has come from the legal profession in general and the judges in particular who have tried some of these cases. In more than one case, a judge, in fixing the fine or jail term, has indicated that his greatest regret was that the law did not provide for a more severe punishment.

All of this information and support, along with our own belief, lead us to a rather logical conclusion: A bill such as H-5599 was needed, and once it was filed we gave it our full support and asked you to do the same.

The bill seemed to be moving through the legislative process with a public hearing and then the usual committee actions. We were generally encouraged about the bill until May 11 when a surprise amendment was added to the bill.

The amendment states:

> The scope of these sections shall not apply to any biomedical research activity within institutions abiding by the Federal Animal Welfare Act and the Guide for the Use and Care of Laboratory Animals. This shall also include those institutions who are monitored under the Department of Public Health who house dogs and cats and other sentient creatures.

As a practical matter, this amendment effectively exempts most if not all biomedical research institutions.

I want to make it clear that nothing in our actions or thinking in proposing this legislation was motivated by any matters relating to biomedical research. Our motivation was clearly and simply as stated above — to deal more effectively and justly with the vicious animal abuse cases coming before us and other humane societies on a daily basis.

It seems astounding that the biomedical institutions would request such an exemption when the act prohibited is specifically described as a person who willfully and in a malicious manner kills, maims or disfigures an animal.

It was not our intention to create an issue against legitimate medical research and it is most unfortunate that such an issue has been developed by them.

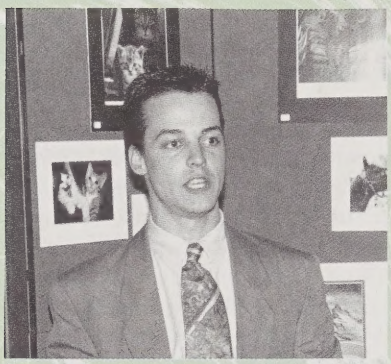
By the same token, it is impossible to accept the bill with this amendment. It in essence puts certain individuals, groups of individuals, and institutions above the law. Under no circumstances can we accept such a concept, regardless of the people and professions involved. I would feel just as strongly about any other groups, for example, pet shops, riding stables, zoos, museums and humane societies!

We have never conducted our law enforcement activities in an irresponsible or frivolous way in the past and there is no justification to assume that we will act in an arbitrary or capricious manner in the future. We take great pride in maintaining a spirit of dignity and respect in these efforts.

Thus we find ourselves in the potentially sad position of asking that this bill be withdrawn if this amendment is not removed from it. There is no way it can be accepted in its present form, but we are actively working in an effort to hopefully bring about an acceptable resolution.

1992 ANNUAL MEETING

A police officer, a lawyer, a humane worker, and a rock star shared the spotlight Wednesday, April 29, at the League's 93rd annual meeting where they were each honored with awards for making the world a safer place for animals.



Three of the award recipients were recognized for their roles in the rescue and rehabilitation of a mixed-breed shepherd/collie named "Jenny," who made a special appearance at the meeting to greet her rescuers.

Members and friends were welcomed to the meeting by John C. Hatch, chairman of the board, who introduced League president Arthur G. Slade, who presented the League's Certificate of Appreciation to Canton Police Officer Glen Piro "in recognition of his exemplary police work in helping to protect animals, as evidenced on the day he rescued Jenny," and to Attorney Michael R. Fuller "in recognition of the dedication and humane concern he demonstrated during his diligent prosecution of a man who abused a dog, and then stuffed it in a trash can and attempted to throw it off an embankment."

Officer Piro was the savior who in 1990 stopped Jenny's owner from hurling the already-battered dog to a certain death. As assistant district attorney for Norfolk County, Michael Fuller prosecuted Jenny's former owner who was successfully convicted on cruelty to animals charges, after a ten-month legal effort.

The most heartwarming moment of the day came when League staff member Alan W. Cunningham escorted a still somewhat shy Jenny to the stage, only to find that he was the surprise recipient of the third Certificate of Appreciation for his two years of rehabilitation work with the severely traumatized dog. A member of the League staff for six years, and manager of the League's barn at Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham, Cunningham was honored "in recognition of his selfless efforts in rehabilitating many abused animals, most notably Jenny, an abused dog that he spent countless hours of his personal time with. Jenny's abusive past left her trusting no human until Alan's patience and gentle manner gave her a future, and hope for a new home," the citation read.

Featured speakers Robert Walsh (above) and Sandra Luppi (right) discussed the League's goals and programs, past and present. Behind them are some of the award-winning photo contest entries exhibited at the meeting.

Terrie Bierig-Neyland captures the event on videotape.

Special guests at the presentation included Berta Hulme, who had served as a witness victim advocate for Jenny, Avril Elkort, chairman of the Canton board of selectmen, and Canton animal control officer Dick Stein.

Steven Tyler, lead singer of the rock band Aerosmith, was the fourth award recipient, honored for saving his family pet, a tiger cat, from a house fire. Unable to attend the ceremony, Tyler received a Certificate of Appreciation "in recognition of the courage and compassion he demonstrated during a house fire where he rescued his wife and daughter, and returned to the flaming building to rescue the family cat."

In his president's message, Arthur Slade reported that the League was able to provide services to over 345,000 animals in all categories during 1991, a 20% increase over the previous year, largely attributable to a growth in inspections and investigations. "Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more need in this area, with violence and abuse an increasingly serious problem," he said. On a positive note, he observed that twice as many cats as dogs were placed for adoption during the year, a statistic which reflects a reduction in the number of puppies that are coming in to League shelters. "Hopefully, we are beginning to see the positive results of spaying and neutering education efforts over the years, at least among the canine population." This is not true of cats, he noted, where breeding continues out of control.

"Jenny" is reunited with her rescuers (l to r): Berta Hulme, victim advocate for the abused dog, and Certificate of Appreciation recipients Michael R. Fuller, Alan W. Cunningham and Officer Glen Piro.

Alan Cunningham receives surprise award from board chairman John Hatch and League president Arthur Slade.

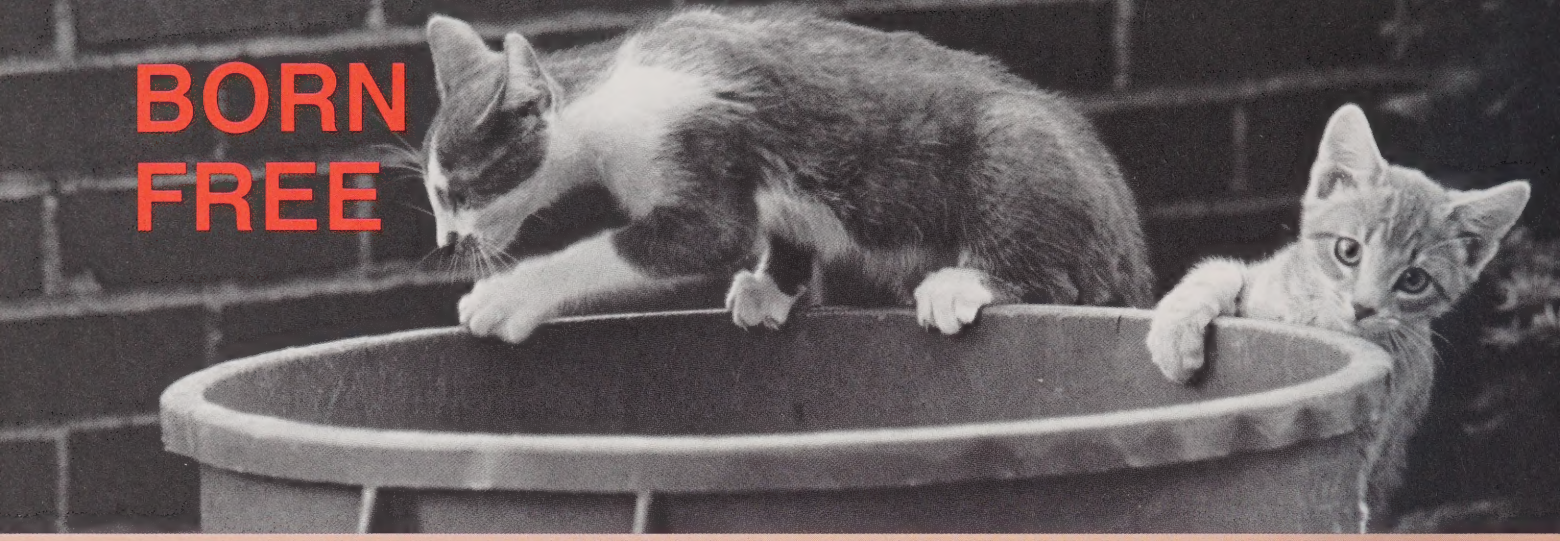
To the League's members and donors, the president expressed appreciation "for your tremendous support — you make what we do possible." To the staff, he expressed a special thanks on behalf of chairman Hatch and the League officers and directors: "We are very aware of the tremendous work you do above and beyond the call of duty — you are the strength of the organization."

The accomplishments of the staff, both past and present, were featured in a presentation by Robert Walsh, manager of the Pine Ridge Animal Center, and Sandra Luppi, assistant manager of the Cape Cod branch in Brewster, who, as guest speakers at the event, traced the development of the League from its turn-of-the-century roots. Illustrating their talk with historic as well as current slides, they demonstrated the tremendous advances made in humane techniques and equipment over the years, while at the same time pointing out how closely the League has adhered to the original goals of its founder, Anna Harris Smith.

Reelected to the board of directors to serve three-year terms were Paul J. Brennan, Mrs. Alexander H. Bright, Mrs. David Dearborn, Richard A. Hall, John C. Hatch, and Mrs. Prospere Virden.

On exhibit at the meeting were the winning entries in the League's 1992 Animal Photography Contest (see pp. 10-11).

BORN FREE



The High Toll of Liberty for Feral Cats

It starts innocently, and with the very best of intentions.

A stray cat, or perhaps two or three, turn up in the neighborhood and someone begins feeding them. In a matter of months, one or two have borne litters of kittens; within a year, the nucleus of a feral cat colony has been formed and the very animals that at first drew sympathy and compassion are now a source of consternation and conflict in the neighborhood.

"I have met people who are now feeding second, third and fourth generations of cats," says League agent Jim Pernavas, whose job brings him intimate knowledge of the tragic consequences of misguided good intentions.

Those who oppose the trapping and euthanizing of feral cats argue that as long as they are able to survive on their own, even with malnutrition, sickness and high injury rates, they should be left to do so. In short, if there are no problems, why intervene? But it is precisely when there *are* problems that humane societies, animal control officers, and shelters are called upon for solutions. "The majority of calls from the public occur when cats that were being fed become a nuisance, either creating problems for people, or facing serious problems themselves," Pernavas notes. In the spring and summer months, the League receives as many as two or three calls a day from communities with wild or feral cat problems.

One such call came last winter from the Massachusetts Water Resource Association on Deer Island, where cats had been living wild for years in part of a sewage treatment plant. Another summons last spring brought League agents to a barn in West Bridgewater where a colony of more than 25 cats were frantic and starving after the man who had been feeding them died. A short time later, they were called to a house in Bridgewater which had recently been vacated. On the back porch were 15 to 20 cats waiting for the food they were accustomed to receiving from the former occupant. "We later found out that this group was a spin-off from the colony at the West Bridgewater barn," Pernavas recalls.

Every so-called wild cat that is brought to the League is examined carefully by shelter managers to determine whether it might be suitable for adoption, as were some of the kittens from the Deer Island facility. "In reality, though, these are the exceptions. Most feral cats are either too sick or too wild to be placed in homes."

Shelter manager Katherine Dwyer explains: "By the time feral cats are even six to eight weeks old, they are wild animals. They have imprinted off their parents' behavior; if the parents are afraid of people, they will be too."

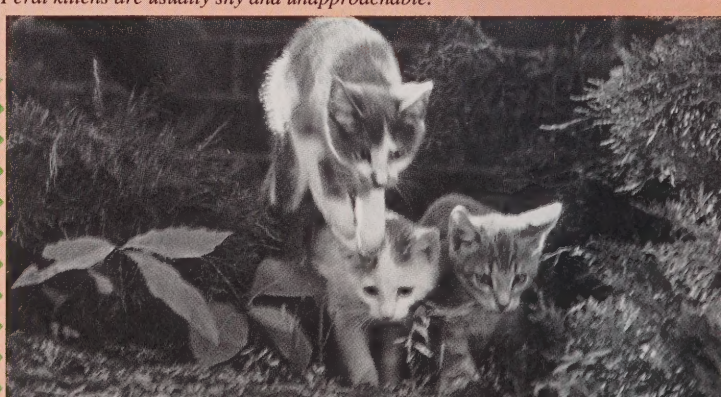
Feral cats are former house cats that have reverted to the wild, relying for survival on rodents, birds, garbage cans and dumpsters, and handouts from kind-hearted people. The population includes former pets that have been abandoned or lost, and their offspring, which have been born into feral colonies. Their life spans are much shorter than the average house cat's, with a high infant mortality rate from viral diseases, as well as the threat of starvation, exposure to the cold, and injury or death from encounters with cars, other animals, or hostile humans.

Those that do survive (and there are no accurate estimates of the feral cat population, only a perception that their numbers are rising) evoke increasingly negative reactions from the human population as they age and multiply. Some people are upset by their noise, odor, territorial fights, or the fact that they are destroying flower beds. Others are motivated by concerns for the animals themselves. They are distressed by the sight of starving animals, or kittens that have been injured by cars, or — as was the case in one apartment complex — are terrified that they are going to go out to start the car in the morning and find that a kitten has crawled up under the hood for warmth and shelter. Finally, there is a very real public health concern, especially since wild cats are the most likely vector for the wildlife strain of rabies that has made its appearance in neighboring states among raccoons, and also among cats.

One Cure Is Prevention

These are complex problems, with no easy solutions. In the long term, spaying and neutering of pet cats, keeping house cats under control, and a general improvement in the level of responsibility among the cat-owning public would go a long way toward reducing the problem in the future. Indeed, the impact of public education efforts in these areas is already being seen among stray dogs whose number seem to be de-

Feral kittens are usually shy and unapproachable.



creasing, judging by the experience of the League and other humane society shelters.

"If the population of pet cats coming into the shelters could be reduced through more responsible pet ownership, then more of our limited resources — physical, financial and human — would be freed up to devote to the feral population. Even if, with a lot of time and effort, some of the younger feral cats might be able to be socialized and rehabilitated, they are currently in competition for homes with an abundance of already-socialized, affectionate domestic cats and kittens," shelter manager Dwyer points out.

Meanwhile, what are humane societies to do when confronted with large numbers of feral cat colonies? Do any practical, effective alternatives exist to replace humane trapping and euthanasia?

Over the past decade, several attempts have been made to develop such alternatives. One effort involved the use of chemical contraceptives in cat food at feeding stations, but this proved ineffective for a number of reasons, including the failure of females to comply with feeding schedules. A more widely discussed and applied approach is a program of collecting cats, spaying and neutering, and returning them to their colony site, pioneered in Great Britain by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW).

This approach was first employed with a colony of more than twenty cats living in an apartment complex garage in the Wandsworth section of London, and later with two feral colonies in London's Regent's Park. Follow-up studies led the UFAW to conclude that "there are no apparent detrimental effects on the cats from this method of control. The method has obvious general public appeal, and proved sufficiently effective at controlling cat problems to warrant its adoption by many local authorities and hospitals in the U.K.," according to Peter Neville, animal behavior consultant with the UFAW.

In the mid-1980's, the UFAW program was employed on the island of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, under the guidance of AnnaBell Washburn and Dr. James Ross of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. Over the course of a few summers, several hundred cats were sterilized, and an extensive public education program was developed. The approach has also been used in Greece, Tunisia, Italy, and by private groups in some communities in the U.S.

A "Mini Solution"

Are such trapping and neutering systems the answer? Described as "an effective mini solution" by Phil Maggitti writing in the *Animals' Agenda,* this approach is viewed as having limited, small-scale applicability, at best, by most humane society and animal welfare professionals in the U.S. While it may work with specific, small colonies of cats, in well-defined geographic areas, the "sterilize and release" program has inherent limitations which render widespread application impractical, if not undesirable.

With this approach, post-operative care consists of one overnight stay for males, two for females. The tips of their ears are "nipped" to mark which cats have been sterilized. Only healthy cats are sterilized; sick ones are euthanized. Those that are neutered and released receive rabies inoculations, but are not vaccinated against viral diseases.

The program requires not only extensive veterinary support, but is also dependent on the continued kindness of caretakers who are appointed as "feeders." The UFAW, in fact, recommends trapping only when "the welfare of the cats can be assured after their return."

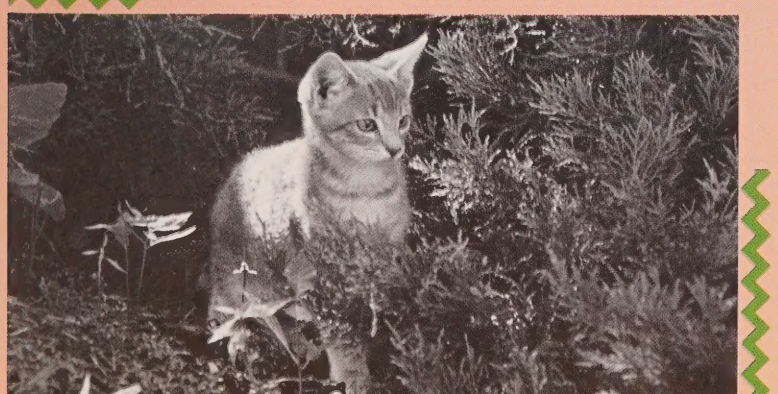
The enormous difficulty of granting such assurance lies at the very heart of the humane societies' reluctance to endorse this approach as a universal solution. "While the animals may not be reproducing, they are still prey to injury, exposure, and disease. They can contract and spread feline leukemia and other viral diseases, as well as rabies if they are not recaptured and revaccinated every three years," says League president Arthur G. Slade. "I'm also concerned about the issue of post-operative care. It's not uncommon for even well-supervised domestic cats to tear out their sutures and rip open their incisions several days after surgery."

Jim Pernavas checks in at the shelter office with a litter of obviously affectionate, adoptable domestic kittens.

Phyllis Wright, vice president at the Humane Society of the United States, has stated: "I've read about how feeding cats is wonderful for people who have nothing else to do, but when those people go off, the cats are still out there, and they are still susceptible to disease."

Samantha Mullen, of the New York State Humane Association, has stated: "I see trapping and releasing as having limited application, and only in situations where a person, or preferably a group of people, is willing to take care of the cats."

All involved do agree on one conclusion, best expressed by Dr. Andrew N. Rowan, director of Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, writing in the Center's February newsletter: "It is clear to me that the feral cat problem is not going to go away and that it needs to be dealt with. Accordingly, we have decided to organize a workshop to identify the questions that need to be asked and to gather what meager data is currently available to see if we can even begin to hazard any tentative conclusions about some of the issues." The League will be represented at this workshop, which takes place as the magazine goes to press, and will keep readers informed of developments in future issues of *Our Fourfooted Friends.*



Instructor Richard Meyer opens a case study discussion.

National Cruelty Investigations School:

A Class Act !

- *A kitten has been burned on the legs and abdomen by scalding water. Its owner's roommate accuses a third roommate of having done it deliberately. The accused girl claims it was an accident.*
- *A teenage boy reports that a man in his neighborhood has been holding "parties," where cats are tortured. He shows you photographs of the alleged "torture parties" which he has stolen from another boy.*
- *A dog has been shot to death. A trail of bloody pawprints and the direction of the bullet trajectory both seem to implicate the dog owner's next-door neighbor.*

Is the evidence in these cases sufficient to obtain a search-and-seizure warrant? Are criminal charges indicated? If prosecuted, which of these cases is likely to lead to a conviction?

These "who done its" are not from Detective Columbo's casebook. They are actual cruelty cases presented for study and analysis at the National Cruelty Investigations School, held June 8-12 in Andover, MA. And they represent the kinds of questions and decisions faced daily by humane law enforcement officers and other cruelty investigators.

Five law enforcement officers from the League were among the 35 humane society and animal control professionals from throughout New England who completed the intensive 40-hour course, presented jointly by the American Humane Association (AHA) and the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) of the University of Missouri at Columbia.

This was the sixth such course presented, in various parts of the country, since the Investigations School was begun in 1990, with the goal of bringing together the joint disciplines of law enforcement and humane investigation in one, unified educational experience. The idea for the school was conceived when AHA staff associate Richard J. Meyer and LETI program coordinator and instructor Michael R. Gillingham worked together on a horse abuse program. "I had been asked to teach humane officers how to interview victims and witnesses, and how to interrogate suspects. But I soon saw a need for more than just interviewing skills. The other areas that humane officers needed training in included the collection of evidence, constitutional law, report writing and courtroom testimony," recalls Gillingham, whose background includes 13 years with the St. Louis County Police Department, as patrolman, detective, and police academy instructor.

AHA's Richard Meyer agrees: "Successful cruelty investigation relies on having expertise from several disciplines." The investigator must not only recognize which course of action to take, but also how to carry it out. "A cruelty investigator's job is not necessarily to prosecute," Meyer emphasizes, "but to resolve the abuse or neglect in the best interest of the animal."

The law enforcement aspects of investigating cruelty calls, including interviewing and reporting a case, search and seizure, and courtroom testimony, are taught by the LETI faculty. AHA staff members cover the animal-related areas of investigation, such as animal law, animals as evidence, veterinary reports, and an introductory session on blood sports (pit bull and cock fighting).

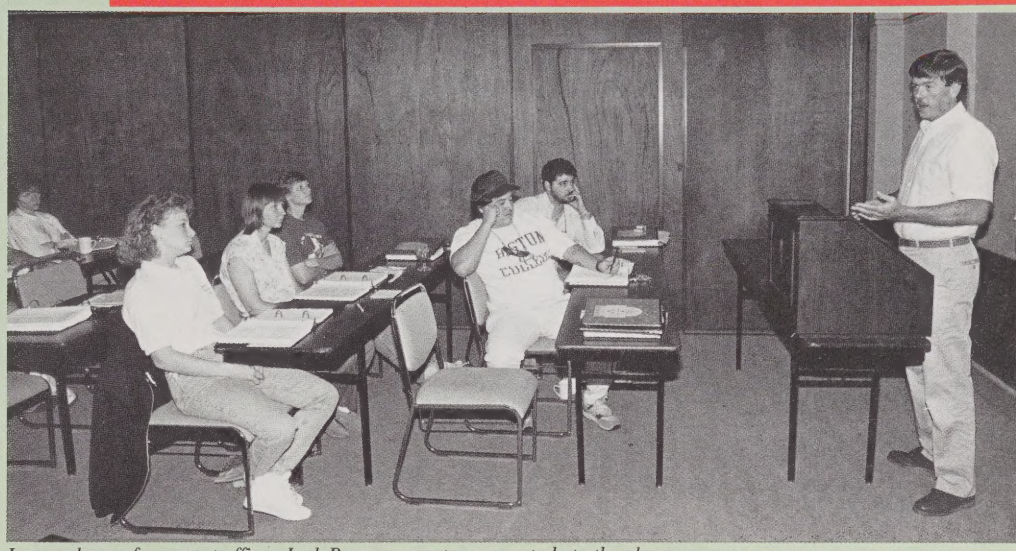
The instructors, however, were not the only source of helpful information. Both during and after school hours, students were eager to share their knowledge and expertise with

each other. League staff members, including law enforcement officers Jack Burns, Ray Orlando, and Mark Williamson, from Boston headquarters, and Lynda Brogden and Sandra Luppi, manager and assistant manager of the League's Cape Cod branch, were able to exchange information and ideas with colleagues from neighboring states, where laws and approaches frequently differ.

"The opportunity to exchange information on a national basis is a major goal of the school, and an important step toward increased professionalism," according to Wayne E. Thomason, director of LETI. "Eventually, we'd like to see more specialized training evolve, perhaps an instructor development course, and even a National Association of Cruelty Investigators," he says.

Added perspectives were brought to the course by other instructors as well, including Dale Dunning, executive director of the Oregon Humane Society and an expert in the investigation of blood sports; Paul Miller, director of operations at the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, CA, with wide investigative experience; and Gary L. Stamper, a Missouri trial attorney who gave the students a first-hand exposure to a typical defense lawyer's techniques and courtroom tactics.

How to successfully resolve a cruelty case was a key element of the course, and the student sleuths gathered in teams on the closing day to present their solutions to six assigned case studies, including the three outlined at the beginning of this article.



League law enforcement officer Jack Burns presents a case study to the class.

The team assigned to the case of the scalded cat, with ARL's Jack Burns as presentor, developed a scenario whereby expert witness interrogation revealed a history of animosity among the roommates, leading one to lie about the other's role in what was really an accidental injury.

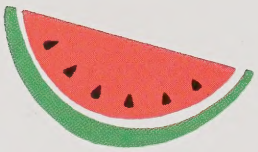
Having only ambiguous, stolen photos as evidence, the team analyzing the "torture party" case determined that additional evidence would be needed in order to obtain a search warrant. Their recommendations included interviewing neighbors, gas and meter readers, trash collectors, and anyone else who had access to the house, to gain more information about the occupant, and additional witnesses to what went on inside the house.

In the case of the dog that was shot, the team determined from the diagram of the pawprints where in the yard they might locate the bullet which had exited the dog's body. They would then check public records for a history of complaints from the neighbor about the dog, any criminal record, or record of owning a gun or a gun license. An accumulation of such evidence — a history of threats, plus a gun, and boot tracks in the snow leading to the house — would allow them to get a search warrant. If a gun were located, ballistics experts would be called in to match the bullet with the gun, and the case would be prosecuted.

In the actual case, the instructor revealed, investigation disclosed a history of problems with the law, but the local police took over the case and did not pursue it. The evidence at the crime scene was soon obliterated, and the suspected perpetrator went free.

Chatting at break time are (l to r): ARL Cape Cod branch manager Lynda Brogden, LETI program coordinator Michael Gillingham, AHA associate Richard Meyer, and ARL assistant manager Sandra Luppi.

First Prize, adult

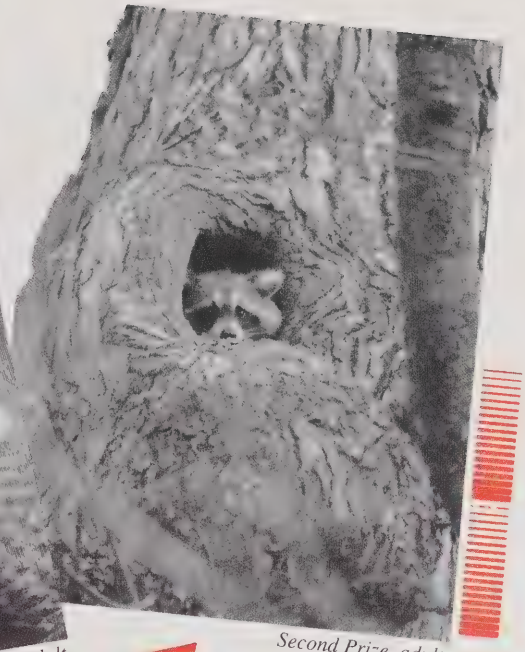


'92 Photo Contest

First Prize, adult

Third Prize, junior

Third Prize, adult



Second Prize, adult

First Prize, junior

Second Prize, junior

Second Prize, junior

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

1992 PHOTO CONTEST

*The second prize adult color photo will appear on the cover of the next issue.

Adult Color

First Prize:	Daniel Murphy, Pembroke
* **Second Prize:**	Kevin J. Murphy, Boston
Third Prize:	Arthur C. Morton, Jr., Lakeville
Honorable Mention:	Liane Brandon, Boston
	Vicki Maynard, Peabody
	Dennis Finnegan, Woburn
	Chicky Taylor, Wakefield
	Lee Callahan, Providence, RI
	Karen Von Den Deale, Brewster
	Lola Daigle, Waltham

Adult Black-and-White

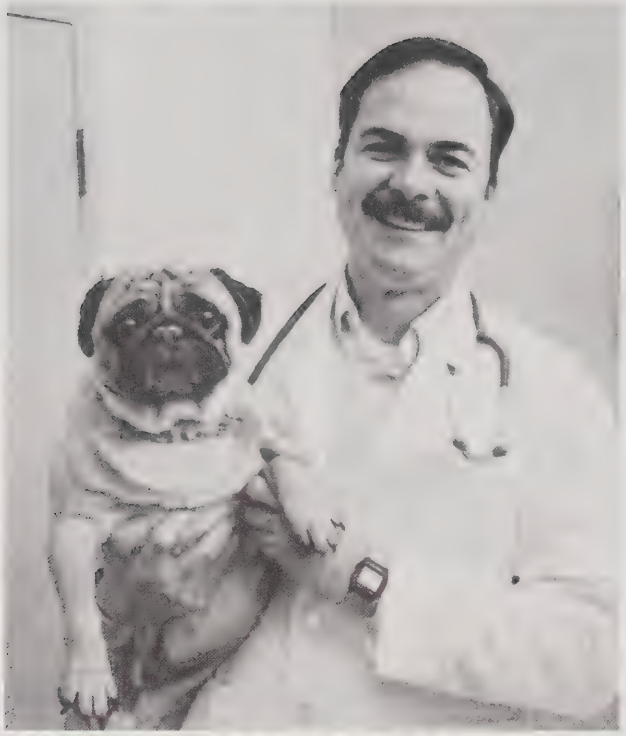
First Prize:	Barbara C. McDowell, East Orleans
Second Prize:	Karen A. S. Roberts, East Weymouth
Third Prize:	Martha E. Tangney, Townsend
Honorable Mention:	Jeffrey P. Sheldon, Boston

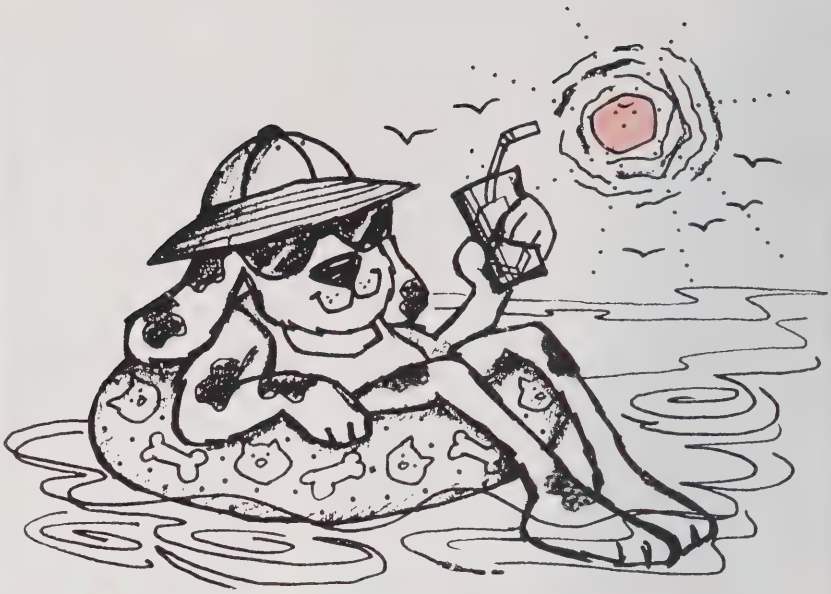
Junior Color

First Prize:	Dan Rosen, age 17, Medfield
Second Prize:	Kathleen Joyce, age 9, Quincy
Third Prize:	Michael F. Donelin, age 7, Quincy
Honorable Mention:	Kathleen Joyce, age 9, Quincy

Junior Black-and-White

First Prize:	Jill McCusker, age 12, Westwood
Second Prize:	Crissy Cepkauskas, age 12, Eastham





A Veterinary Update:

For a Safe Summer, Think Cool!

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

High summer temperatures create discomfort for people, but for pets they can lead to serious illness and even death. Heat stroke, or heat prostration, occurs when an animal's body temperature is elevated above 106° F, or when the heat load on an animal's body exceeds the animal's ability to dissipate the heat by panting.

Heat stroke is most likely to happen when an animal is subjected to high temperatures while confined in a closed environment with poor ventilation (like a parked car). Death can occur in less than an hour, particularly in dogs that are obese, older dogs with cardiovascular disease, or short-nosed breeds with limited panting ability.

The most common symptoms of heat stroke are panting, rapid heartbeat, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and lack of urine. If not treated rapidly, symptoms can progress to a drop in blood pressure and subsequent shock, kidney failure, brain edema, coma, and ultimately death.

Anyone who suspects that his or her pet is suffering from heat prostration should take steps immediately to reduce the animal's total body temperature. Rapid cooling methods include immersing the animal in cold water, applying ice packs to the head and neck, spraying with cold water from a garden hose if one is handy, and increasing ventilation with an electric fan. After initial emergency treatment, it is vital that the animal be taken to a veterinarian as quickly as possible for follow-up treatment. In addition to careful monitoring to assess damage and prevent body temperature from dropping too rapidly, or too low, the animal may require additional supportive treatment that only a veterinarian can administer, such as corticosteroids to prevent brain swelling, or intravenous therapy to restore proper fluid balances.

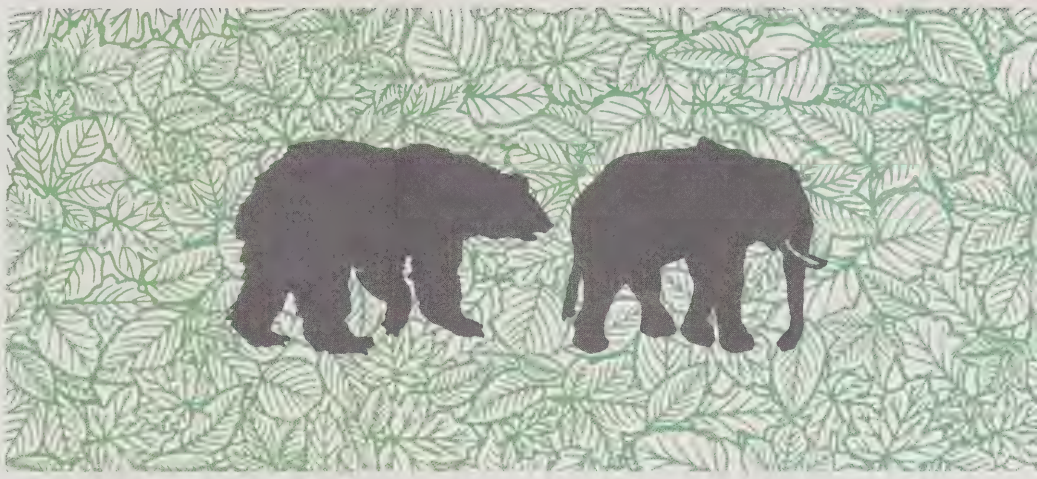
The surest remedy for heat stroke, of course, is prevention. The next time you even consider leaving the family pet in a parked car while you run a brief errand, or take a quick dip at the beach, remember how severe the consequences can be. Metal vehicles act like ovens, quickly raising the temperature inside to fatal levels.

High Ratings for Rawhide

Rawhide chew treats were found to be significantly more effective than baked cereal biscuits in removing dental calculus from dogs' teeth, according to a study by Dr. Arthur Lage and colleagues, published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.*

The superior effectiveness of rawhide was attributed to the fact that dogs chew rawhide treats for longer periods of time than they do biscuits or dry food. The longer the mechanical abrasive action goes on, the more plaque is removed. No adverse effects were found, even in dogs that consumed as many as three rawhide strips a day for three consecutive weeks.

Voting For Survival



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) met in Japan last March. With an international membership of 112 countries, this CITES meeting was the eighth in the organization's history. The world watched closely this year as the fates of many endangered animal and plant species were debated.

As reported in the Spring 1990 issue of "Our Fourfooted Friends," the African elephant had won CITES' Appendix I status, which bans all trade in any products from that animal. This move severely crippled the legal ivory trade and prompted South Africa and Zimbabwe to lobby for an exemption to the decision. If granted by CITES, this exemption would have allowed the trade in elephant parts to continue in those two countries. However, neither country won an exemption, so they have spent the last two years rallying support for a proposal to list the African elephant on Appendix II. This listing would reduce the protection currently given to the elephant, and the deadly trade in ivory which still threatens the species would most certainly resume. Dr. Teresa M. Telecky, Associate Director of the Wildlife and Habitat Division of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), attended the CITES meeting and reports: "During the stormy debate, more than ten African nations and numerous others voiced strong opposition to the proposal, arguing that a renewed legal trade in any elephant part would increase poaching for elephants throughout the African continent and eventually lead to the extinction of the species." When the storm cleared, the African elephant had retained its Appendix I status, ensuring that this animal will continue to be fully protected from any legal international trade.

More heated debates took place during the proposals to list the American black bear and Asian bears on Appendix II. The Asian bears urgently need protection from the escalating illegal trade in their gall bladders and other body parts ("Our Fourfooted Friends," Spring 1992). The American black bear is the latest target for poachers, who are killing them to supplement the dwindling supply of Asian bears. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) conducted a worldwide campaign to protect these vulnerable bears and reports that WSPA "underscored the worldwide support for the bears by presenting CITES delegates with a petition containing the signature of more than a quarter of a million people demanding greater protection for the bears." The proposals passed, despite opposition from 19 nations (including the United States), and the American black bear and Asian bears received an Appendix II listing.

In addition to regulating trade in endangered mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, and mollusks, CITES protects plant species. Many proposals for the protection of economically important trees were made, including the Brazilian rosewood, the African teak, the American mahogany, and the Central American mahogany. The Brazilian rosewood won an Appendix I listing, and the African teak and Central American mahogany were listed on Appendix II. The American mahogany, however, lost out to political pressure and the proposal to list it on Appendix II was withdrawn.

Assigning Appendix I status to the Brazilian rosewood was an important victory as it signaled protection for a tropical tree and perhaps the beginning of a trend to more aggressively protect indigenous species of the world's rain forests. Faith Campbell of the Natural Resources Defense Council attended this session of the CITES meeting and comments in the conclusion of her report, "I will be consulting with colleagues here on how to raise the public's understanding of the link between timber harvesting and deforestation and CITES' role in controlling the former; and in ways to put pressure on the industry and recalcitrant government agencies."

Many decisions were made in Japan this past March concerning the fates of endangered species, but many other plant and animal species were not listed at all. The most disturbing development of the CITES meeting, however, was the dismal performance of the United States delegation. HSUS reported, "Although the United States has long been viewed as a leader in world conservation, at this year's meeting the U.S. delegation took positions that undercut efforts to protect wildlife." The United States delegation not only actively fought the proposed Appendix II listing for American black bears, but they barely argued at all in opposition to the African elephant proposal. And they were highly motivated to fight against the proposal to protect the eastern and endangered western bluefin tuna. In addition, it was United States' "political pressure" that removed the American mahogany from the Appendix II listing awarded to the other trees. If this disturbing trend on the part of the United States continues, perhaps the greatest foe to vulnerable animal and plant species will be not Japanese tuna trawlers or South American construction crews, but our own ineffectiveness in bringing about change.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

"HOGAN'S" HEROES

"Hogan," a 13-year-old shepherd from Portland, ME who got lost at the Dedham Mall and survived as a "mall mutt" for over a week while his family searched frantically for him, is released by Frank Carmichael of the League's Dedham branch into the arms of his loving family. The joyful reunion with Mike and Tammy Charlesworth, and their children Marcel, 8, and Dylan, 3, took place May 14, a day after League agent Alan Cunningham and his dog "Cory" located Hogan in Norwood, where he had been reported foraging for food at the local McDonald's and Burger King.

NEW BOOK

Grieving the Death of a Pet, by Mary & Herb Montgomery, illustrated by Madeline Berglund. Through a series of illustrated stories of pet owners who have suffered the loss of a pet, this book "not only offers consolation at the time of death, but also sustains the reader with much needed understanding and reassurance throughout the most intense stages of grieving," according to a review in *Cat Fancy* magazine. Montgomery Press, P. O. Box 24124, Minneapolis, MN 55424, $3.95, plus $1.50 shipping and handling.

★★★★★★

NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT!

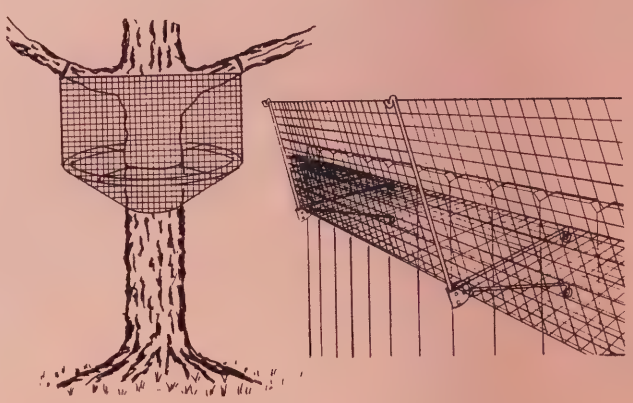
Immulogic Pharmaceutical Corp. in Cambridge announced this spring that it was about to begin human clinical trials of a new vaccine that offer will offer relief to people who have allergic reactions to cats. The company, which specializes in products to treat disorders of the immune system, hopes to have the vaccine on the market in the next three to four years. Their work on the vaccine was reported at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology.

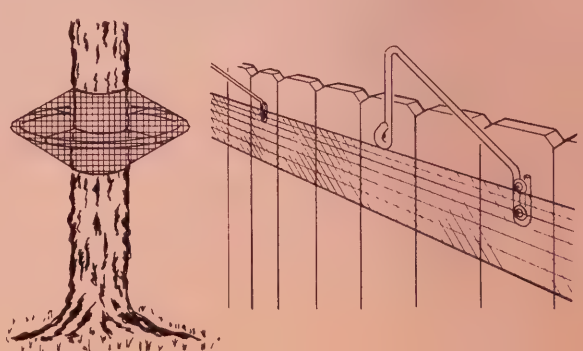
NATICK INTRODUCES FELINE LEASH LAW

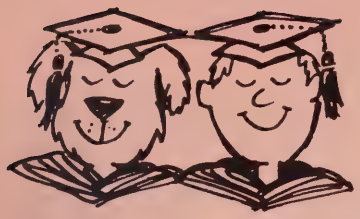
The town of Natick, MA recently passed a new animal control law requiring cat owners to restrain their pets on leashes whenever the animals are off their owners' property. Violators will face penalties ranging from a $25 fine for a first offense, to $100 for a fourth offense.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CAT IS?

Cat owners whose pets like to wander may find peace of mind with a new product designed to keep cats safely in their own backyards, protected from cars, injury, or diseases from contact with stray animals. The "Cat Fence-in" system is a nonelectronic 16-inch netting barrier that can be attached to any wood, masonry, or chain-link fence. Brackets support the polypropylene netting which extends out into the yard, and is hardly noticeable, according to the manufacturer. The fence comes in kit form to fit any length fence, and costs less than 75¢ a foot. Tree guard netting kits are also available, to prevent cats from climbing trees or utility poles. For more information, contact: Cat Fence-in, P. O. Box 795, Dept. A33, Sparks, NV 89432.







HEARING DOG CENTER HOLDS DUAL CELEBRATION

Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center in Stow held an open house in early May to mark both the start of Better Speech and Hearing Month, and the observance of Be Kind to Animals Week. Red Acre Farm saves abandoned dogs from animal shelters, including many League animals, and trains them to act as "ears" for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

The open house featured tours of kennels and training facilities, hearing dog demonstrations, and a graduation ceremony for recently certified teams of hearing dogs and their new owners.

HUMANE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The League's education coordinator, Edward J. Powers, traveled to Denver this spring to attend the third annual humane education workshop, sponsored by the animal protection division of the American Humane Association.

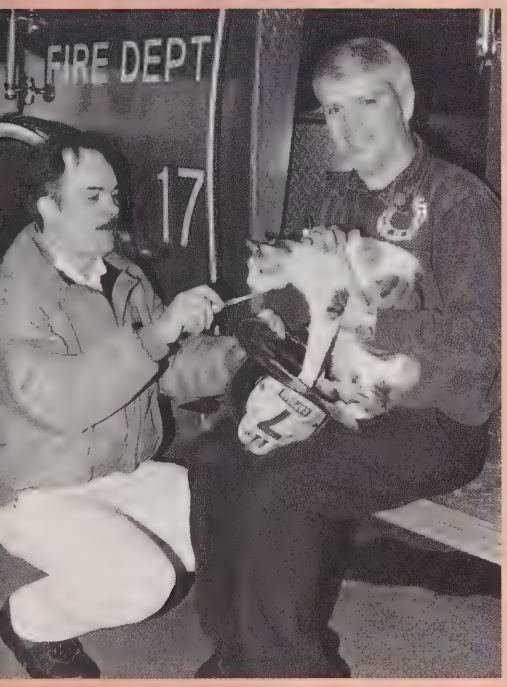
Designed for professionals who already have a basic understanding of humane education planning, the advanced workshop focussed on recent research in humane education, human/animal interaction, multicultural education programs, and animal behavior in the context of teaching adults and children compassion for animals and the natural world.

IN MEMORIAM

The League's Officers, Directors, and Staff mourn the passing on June 10, 1992 of Arthur W. Foster, superintendent of the League's Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals for over thirty years.

Mr. Foster first joined the League staff prior to World War II as an ambulance driver and shelter agent at Boston headquarters. He left to serve in the Navy during the war, returning to head the League's Dedham facility from 1947 until his retirement in 1979.

The League extends its deepest sympathy to his family. His dedicated service and his devoted kindness to animals, especially the abused and abandoned horses which he cared for at Pine Ridge, will long be remembered.



A RECORD TURNOUT FOR RABIES CLINICS

The League is encouraged to report that nearly 1,000 caring pet owners had their dogs and cats immunized against rabies this spring at a series of five rabies clinics held at the League's Salem shelter, and at four Boston neighborhood locations in conjunction with the City of Boston's Animal Control Unit. The Boston area clinics were held at League headquarters on Chandler Street, and at fire stations in Dorchester, West Roxbury, and Brighton. In all, approximately 650 dogs and 330 cats were vaccinated against rabies, a disease which has been causing much concern in the wake of an outbreak of wildlife rabies among raccoons which has been working its way north from the mid-Atlantic area, and appeared for the first time last year in Connecticut, and most recently this spring in New Hampshire.

Choosing A New Pet

"Dad, I really want a new puppy," said Michael Watson. Michael and his little sister, Clare, sat on their porch with their parents.

"I want a kitty, Daddy, a kitty," said Clare.

"No, a puppy!"

"A kitty!"

"Oh, Mom, Dad, can't we please have a pet? Can't we please?" pleaded Michael.

"Well," Mr. Watson said, "owning a pet is a big responsibility. This is something we cannot take lightly. We need to have a family discussion about this."

Michael and Clare could hardly believe their ears! They were so excited! Their parents were finally going to talk with them about getting a pet.

Here are some of the questions that the Watsons had to answer before deciding to get a pet.

1. Did the whole family want a pet? Would everyone love that animal or just Michael and Clare? Is anyone allergic to certain types of animals? It would not be fair to get a pet that made someone in the family uncomfortable. The Watsons knew that they had to choose a pet that everyone would be happy with.
2. What would be the right kind of animal to have as a pet? Mr. Watson explained to Clare and Michael why a raccoon or a squirrel would not be a good pet. He said that they were **wild** animals. Wild animals live without help from people. They are used to finding their own food, water, and a safe place to live. Wild animals are not like **domesticated** animals. Domesticated animals, said Mr. Watson, need people to take care of them. Dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and gerbils are all domesticated animals. They all need someone to feed them. They need someone to keep their homes clean and someone to play with them.
3. Who would be **responsible** for the new pet? Who would take care of the pet? Someone would need to clean up after the pet and make sure that it had fresh food and water. They would also need to make sure that the pet received plenty of exercise and was kept safe, so that it did not get hurt or lost.
4. What size animal would the Watsons get? Did they have room for a horse? Did they have room for a dog? Would it be best for them to get a fish or a gerbil? The Watsons wanted to make sure their new pet would have plenty of room to live comfortably and exercise. The largest animal that they could possibly care for was a dog; they could even have a doghouse in the backyard.
5. How much time would the Watsons have to spend with a new pet? Did they want a pet that would only take a few minutes to care for, like a fish? They were interested in a

puppy. They knew that they could not leave a puppy alone for more than a few hours at a time, if they were going to train it properly. Luckily the children had just started summer vacation, and Mrs. Watson was only working part time. They knew that they would have plenty of time to spend with their new pet. So they would not have to worry about a puppy getting bored or lonely, and developing bad habits.

6. How much would it cost to take care of a new pup? Did the Watsons have the money to buy puppy food, a dog brush, collar, leash, **rabies and license tags**? Could they afford dog bowls, toys, and a dog house? Could they also pay for dog training classes, and trips to the veterinarian to keep a pup healthy? It takes a lot of money to take care of a dog. The Watsons had to be sure they could pay for all the things their new pup would need.

7. Where would the Watsons get their puppy? They planned to go to a **humane society.** They knew that there are many dogs and cats in humane societies that are waiting to find new homes. The Watsons wanted to give one of these unwanted puppy dogs a good home.

After talking about the important questions to consider when choosing a new pet, the Watsons made up a list of the different responsibilities that each would have in caring for their new pet. Clare would be in charge of providing it with food and water in the morning and Michael would do this in the afternoon, as well as cleaning up after the pup. Mr. Watson would take the puppy to dog obedience classes and to the veterinarian. Mrs. Watson would buy the puppy its food and toys. They decided that they would all take turns walking and playing with their new pet. After they completed their list they headed straight for the humane society. They could not wait to begin taking care of their new family member!!!

VOCABULARY WORDS

Responsible — to be expected to take care of something.

Wild — anything that lives or grows without the help of people.

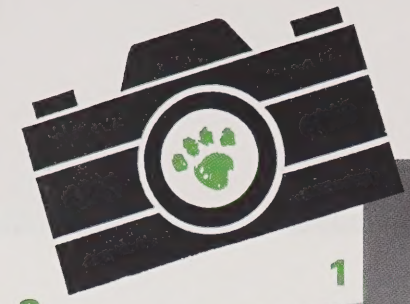
Domesticated — to be tamed.

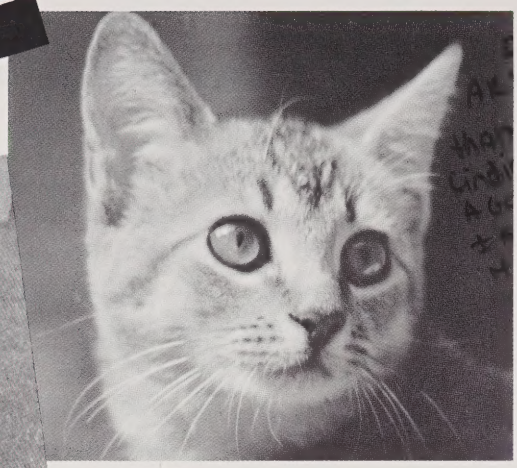
Rabies Tag — a tag that shows that an animal has had a shot to prevent it from getting rabies, an illness that can kill animals.

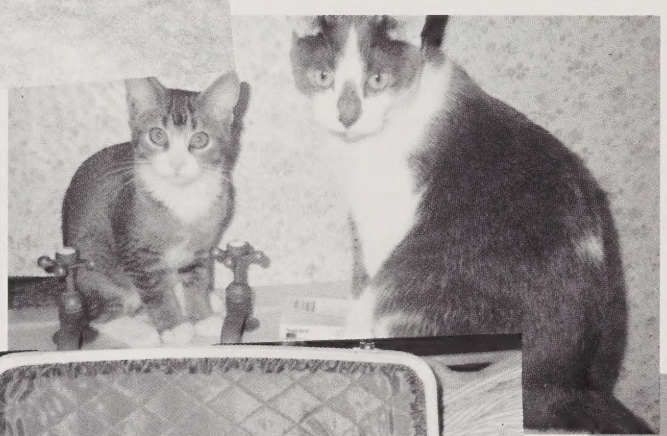
License Tag — a tag that shows that the dog belongs to an owner and has been registered in his or her town.

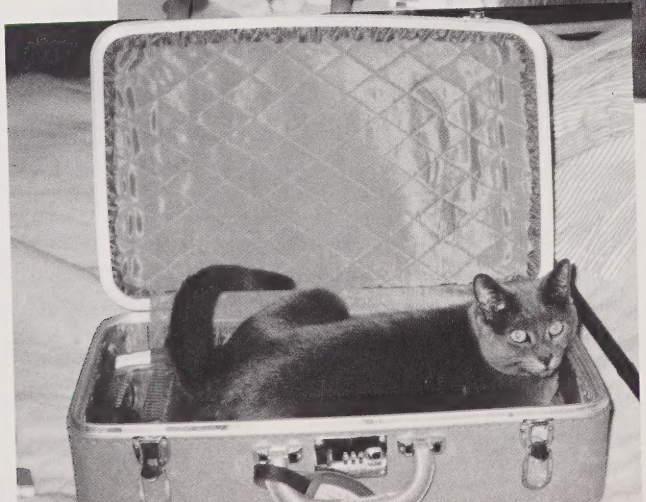
Humane Society — a place where dogs and cats are brought and taken care of before going to a new home.

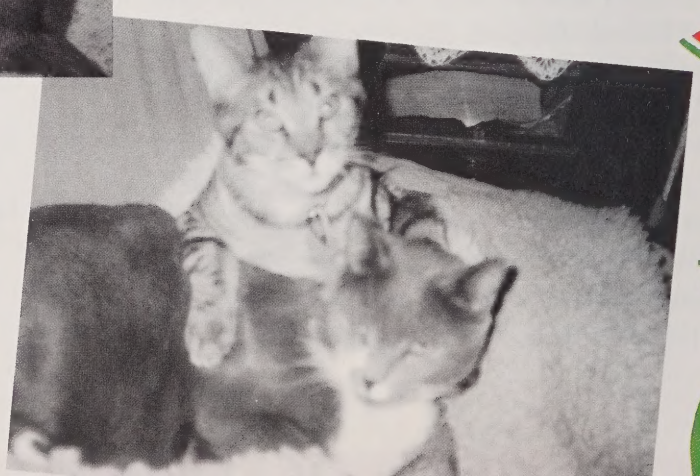
PETS IN THE PICTURE











1 "Dear ARL of Boston . . . thank you for finding me such a good home," writes "Sam" from Somerville, adopted just one year ago by Fiona Logan, who describes her pet as "a very happy cat!"

2 "Silky" was adopted three years ago by Louise Montgomery and Sherril Moon who now live in Bethesda, MD. "As luck would have it, we called about adopting a 'small, housebroken lap dog' on the very day Silky was given up for adoption," they write. "Please be assured she is probably the most loved little dog in the world, and she is indeed a lap dog — that's where she spends most of her time. Silky is absolutely the love of our lives, and I think it's safe to say she landed on her feet!"

3 "Smoky," curled up here with her pal "Corbett," owns the house "and thinks the dog is hers too," according to owner Colleen Cody of Newton.

4 "Thanks for giving us the opportunity to get 'Lucky,'" write Dana Smyle and Derek Johnson of Brookline who adopted their pet last fall. "He's been a wonderful dog, and we're so happy to have found him. We couldn't be luckier (hence his name), and we feel he's pretty lucky too!"

5 "Kobie" and "Penny," both adopted from the League's Brewster shelter by Phyllis Davis of Cummaquid, have a lot in common, including a fondness for the same watering hole. "Their names should be 'aid' and 'abet,' because when one finds something to get into, the other always joins in. The kitten follows me like a puppy, and the house is one great game to her," Ms. Davis writes.

6 Down in Whitman, when this two-year-old Russian Blue cat, named "Blue," found a suitcase being packed, he thought it suited him! Photo is by Blue's owner, Ronald Poole.

7 Louise Randall of Dorchester titles this photo "No Greater Love!" "Tommy," whom she adopted last fall at the age of seven months, "loves to snuggle with his brother 'Jimmy.' He is the wackiest, most incorrigible, wildest, sweetest and most loving kitty I ever had. . . . Thanks for the laughter and the love," she writes.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

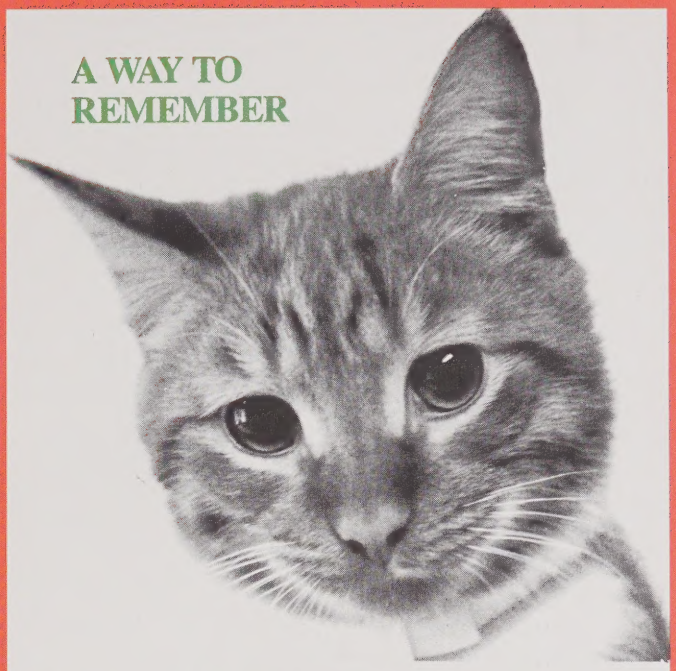
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts., Boston

Gift Tables • Baked Goods
Shelter Tours
Special Auction at 12 Noon

Contribute to the fun!

You can help by sending a cash gift or contributing antiques, arts & handcrafts, china, jewelry, or other treasures for sale or auction (no clothing, please). Mail or bring articles to Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler St., P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117, or call (617) 426-9170 for free pickup.

A WAY TO REMEMBER



The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

SAVE A TREE

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

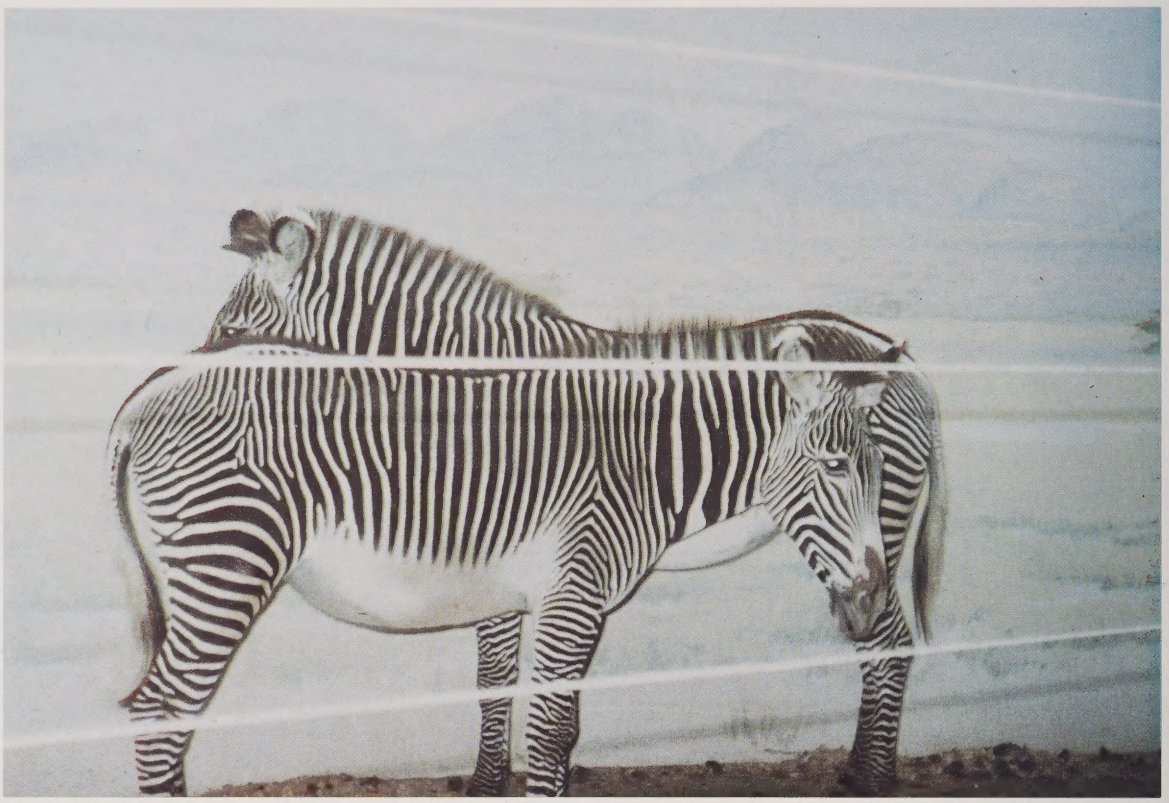


Photo Winner: First prize, junior color, by Dan Rosen, 17, of Medfield.

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
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